

Ag Report

In cooperation with

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July 1 Catfish Inventory

Commercial catfish operations in Mississippi had 184 million foodsize fish on hand July 1, 2003, down 20 percent from the July 1, 2002 total. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 3.30 million were large foodsize (over 3 pounds per fish), 36.8 million medium foodsize (over 1½ to 3 pounds per fish), and 143.4 million were small foodsize fish (over ¾ to 1½ pounds per fish). The number of stockers on hand July 1, 2003, totaled 433 million fish, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of

the total number of stockers, 207 million were large (over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish) and 225 million were small (over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish). Operators had 1.10 billion fingerlings and fry on hand July 1, 2003, down 2 percent from the 1.12 billion on hand July 1, 2002.

All known catfish operators in the four states surveyed were contacted during the first half of July by mail, telephone and personal interview. Data from each operation were compared to their own past operating profile and to trends of similar operations. Data for missing operations were estimated based on similar operations or historical data.

Catfish Production: Water Surface Acre Usage, by State Surveyed, 2002-2003

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During July 1 - December 31 for:					Acres Taken out of Production During Jan 1 - Jun 30
	Foodsize	Fingerlings	Broodfish	Currently Under or Scheduled for-		
				Renovation	New Construction	
2002						
Alabama	23,100	1,800	470	320	440	680
Arkansas	31,000	5,000	750	700	150	1,350
Louisiana	9,300	1,600	220	270	60	1,040
Mississippi	88,000	16,600	3,300	3,300	800	2,300
Four State Total	151,400	25,000	4,740	4,590	1,450	5,370
2003						
Alabama	22,900	1,700	480	590	80	760
Arkansas	28,000	4,300	600	500	*	900
Louisiana	8,100	960	145	600	60	590
Mississippi	84,100	16,900	2,800	2,100	100	2,700
Four State Total	143,100	23,860	4,025	3,790	*	4,950

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**Catfish: Number of Operations, Water Surface Acres Used for
Production, 2002-2003, by State Surveyed**

State	Number of Operations on July 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During July 1 - December 31	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Number		Acres	
Alabama	245	220	26,100	26,000
Arkansas	180	150	37,500	33,500
Louisiana	65	50	11,300	9,400
Mississippi	390	405	110,000	106,000
Four State Total	880	825	184,900	174,900

Catfish: Inventory by Size Category and State Surveyed, July 1, 2002-2003

State and Size Category	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average Per Fish	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Large Foodsize						
Alabama	3,900	2,500	12,700	8,150	3.3	3.3
Arkansas	3,100	1,130	10,400	3,650	3.4	3.2
Louisiana	520	450	1,890	1,680	3.6	3.7
Mississippi	2,700	3,300	9,200	11,400	3.4	3.5
Four State Total	10,220	7,380	34,190	24,880	3.3	3.4
Medium Foodsize						
Alabama	23,300	19,200	44,900	34,100	1.9	1.8
Arkansas	24,800	20,300	47,700	38,600	1.9	1.9
Louisiana	4,900	8,900	8,500	15,600	1.7	1.8
Mississippi	41,400	36,800	75,700	68,000	1.8	1.8
Four State Total	94,400	85,200	176,800	156,300	1.9	1.8
Small Foodsize						
Alabama	45,700	55,100	46,700	54,600	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	41,800	43,800	42,300	39,500	1.0	0.9
Louisiana	8,400	12,000	8,400	10,900	1.0	0.9
Mississippi	185,100	143,400	187,900	143,300	1.0	1.0
Four State Total	281,000	254,300	285,300	248,300	1.0	1.0
Broodfish						
Alabama	135	65	960	400	7.1	6.2
Arkansas	140	110	710	570	5.1	5.2
Louisiana	27	19	165	100	6.1	5.3
Mississippi	750	700	3,600	3,200	4.8	4.6
Four State Total	1,052	894	5,435	4,270	5.2	4.8

Catfish: Inventory by Size Category and State Surveyed, July 1, 2002-2003—Cont.

State and Size Category	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average Per Fish	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Large Stockers						
Alabama	94,900	54,300	45,000	20,000	474	368
Arkansas	49,600	45,600	18,300	16,000	369	351
Louisiana	16,500	6,800	7,200	3,000	436	441
Mississippi	217,800	207,000	89,300	84,600	410	409
Four State Total	378,800	313,700	159,800	123,600	422	394
Small Stockers						
Alabama	59,000	36,500	7,700	3,600	131	98.6
Arkansas	78,800	63,500	7,600	6,000	96.4	94.5
Louisiana	28,500	10,100	2,400	1,230	84.2	122
Mississippi	221,800	225,000	21,700	21,200	97.8	94.2
Four State Total	388,100	335,100	39,400	32,030	102.0	95.6
Fingerlings and Fry						
Alabama	121,700	92,500	1,540	1,430	12.7	15.5
Arkansas	297,000	220,000	4,400	3,600	14.8	16.4
Louisiana	94,300	85,300	1,700	1,400	18.0	16.4
Mississippi	1,123,000	1,104,000	17,500	15,900	15.6	14.4
Four State Total	1,636,000	1,501,800	25,140	22,330	15.4	14.9

Catfish Processors: Sales Volume, Average Price and Ending Inventory,
United States, June 2002-2003

Item	Sales Volume		Average Price		Ending Inventory	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Pounds		Dollars Per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
Fresh						
Whole Fish	3,313	3,266	1.37	1.39	195	205
Fillet ¹	5,093	5,737	2.55	2.50	407	440
Other ²	1,527	1,319	1.51	1.54	112	80
Total Fresh	9,933	10,322	2.00	2.03	714	725
Frozen						
Whole Fish	1,194	1,058	1.87	1.82	819	1,454
Fillet ¹	10,134	9,554	2.40	2.41	5,864	6,148
Other ²	3,409	4,553	1.55	1.32	2,396	3,173
Total Frozen	14,737	15,165	2.16	2.04	9,079	10,775
Total Fresh & Frozen	24,670	25,487	2.09	2.04	9,793	11,500

¹ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded products.² Includes all products not already reported including weight of breading and added ingredients.

**United States Farm-Raised Catfish: Quantity Processed and Prices Paid to Producers by
Major Processors, and United States Imports, 2002-2003**

Month	Round Weight Processed				Average Price Paid to Producers ¹		Imports of Catfish ²	
	Monthly		Cumulative					
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Pounds				Dollars Per Pound		(000) Pounds	
January	52,551	55,523	52,551	55,523	.549	.529	1,037	1,322
February	52,856	55,461	105,407	110,984	.555	.544	1,048	260
March	58,340	65,007	163,747	175,991	.565	.585	414	332
April	50,694	57,105	214,441	233,096	.561	.630	618	272
May	52,902	58,424	267,343	291,520	.574	.618	1,491	703
June	49,450	52,441	316,793	343,961	.588	.586	982	
July	52,363		369,156		.590		957	
August	54,383		423,539		.582		632	
September	53,366		476,905		.576		670	
October	56,576		533,481		.568		572	
November	50,072		583,553		.560		874	
December	47,048		630,601		.544		906	

¹ Price for fish delivered to processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include adjustments based on year-end settlements.

² Pounds of frozen boneless fillets. Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.